

critical factor in driving prices of oil from approximately \$11 a barrel in 1998 to a high of \$30 a barrel last month. These are levels that we have not seen since the Persian Gulf War.

Foreign countries that export oil to the United States have been engaged in a price-fixing scheme which has driven the average price at the pump to almost \$2 in some parts of this country. Yet, the Clinton-Gore administration has done nothing to stop this, even with the OPEC strategy of price control. Even Energy Secretary Bill Richardson admits his administration, his department, was "caught napping."

Once again, the leadership in the White House has been lax, and foreign nations have taken advantage of our apparent weakness.

We passed a plan yesterday with Republican leadership. So I urge the administration to adopt our plan and fight this oil cartel.

LA BELLA MEMORANDUM

Mr. Speaker, last week, someone at the Justice Department leaked the La Bella memo to the press. The La Bella memo is a 94-page document calling on the Attorney General to appoint an Independent Counsel to investigate the White House. The memo also spells out all of the ways that Janet Reno and her political advisors avoided any thorough investigation of the 1996 campaign fundraising scandal. A year after he was brought in to head the campaign fundraising investigation, La Bella concluded that Janet Reno and her political advisors had used "gamesmanship" and "legal contortions" to avoid a thorough investigation. He also concluded that the result was a double standard for the President, the Vice President, the First Lady and Harold Ickes, protecting them from any real investigation.

There is something seriously wrong at the Justice Department when career prosecutors are not allowed to follow the facts wherever they lead. The result is an investigation that has no credibility. There are numerous examples of the failed investigation:

The President and Vice President were never thoroughly questioned. Can you imagine—the Justice Department failed to ask the President a single question about James Riady and foreign money. They didn't ask the Vice President any questions about the Buddhist Temple fundraiser. Unbelievable!

The Justice Department has apparently never asked the White House to turn over hundreds of thousands of e-mails that have never been reviewed.

Central figures in the scandal, like John Huang and Charlie Trie, have received light sentences without giving up useful information to the Justice Department.

Mr. Speaker, we have a right to know whether the Justice Department has done a thorough and credible job investigating the 1996 campaign fundraising scandal. The Justice Department has already leaked the La Bella memo to the press. They should now turn it over to congress, so that we can see if Janet Reno has allowed her career prosecutors to do their job.

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LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ACKERMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for March 21 and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. VENTO (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 5 p.m. today and the balance of the month on account of health reasons.

Mr. QUINN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 3 p.m. today until March 31 on account of medical reasons.

Mr. MCHUGH (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 2 p.m. today on account of medical reasons.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, March 27, 2000, at 2 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6741. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Additives for Use in Meat and Poultry Products: Sodium Diacetate, Sodium Acetate, Sodium Lactate and Potassium Lactate [Docket No. 99-028DF] received January 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6742. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV00-955-1 FR] received February 11, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6743. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Relaxation of the Minimum Size Requirement for Red Seedless Grapefruit [Docket No. FV99-905-6 FIR] received February 11, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6744. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Field Study; Definition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6745. A letter from the Comptroller General, the General Accounting Office, transmitting an updated compilation of historical information and statistics regarding rescissions proposed by the executive branch and rescissions enacted by the Congress through October 1, 1999; (H. Doc. No. 106-217); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

6746. A letter from the Executive Director, Emergency Oil and Gas Guaranteed Loan Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Loan Guarantee Decision; Availability of En-

vironmental Information (RIN: 3003-ZA00) received February 15, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6747. A letter from the Executive Director, Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Loan Guarantee Decision; Application Deadlines (RIN: 3003-ZA00) received February 15, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

6748. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 13-291, "Tax Conformity Temporary Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6749. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-290, "Closing of Public Alley in Square 6159, S.O. 98-125, Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6750. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-289, "Recreation Volunteer Background Check and Screening Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6751. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-287, "Long-Term Care Insurance Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6752. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-273, "Muhammad Mosque No.4 Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6753. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-272, "Victory Memorial Baptist Church Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6754. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-271, "Compensating-Use Tax Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6755. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-270, "Bread for the City & Zachaeus Free Clinic Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6756. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-269, "University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees Residency Requirement Amendment Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6757. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-268, "Litter Control Administration Amendment Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6758. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-267, "Underground Facilities Protection Amendment Act of 2000" received March 22, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.